

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

October 2025

Next Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, October 21, 2025

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Hello to all. I guess just about everyone in the OVH knows by now or has heard that our OVH Club President, Ken / KN4DD, has been having a series of issues relating to his knees, including especially his recent knee replacement surgery. Unfortunately, unexpected and severe medical complications at last caused Ken to resign as OVH's President because he regarded his developing situation and the uncertainties associated with it as such that he simply no longer was capable of performing most of his duties as OVH President.



For now Ken certainly will be missed by everyone. His medical situation is still quite uncertain so I ask all who knew or had dealings with him to say a prayer for his favorable recovery. Ken truly has done an excellent job during the past several years as OVH President. Thanks Ken..

To that end, it is my responsibility as OVH Vice President to step up and for now assume the duties of OVH President. The next Officer election in the OVH will be in February, 2026 at the regular OVH meeting that month. Given the standards set by Ken's excellent performance as OVH President, these are big shoes (for me or anyone else) to fill. I will do my best and so here goes starting with this letter about recent and upcoming OVH activities and business. .

Very active OVH members, John / KG4NXT and Theresa / KG4TVM, recently spent several weeks in Ecuador visiting there with OVH member Don / WA2SWX, now also Don / HC4DA, and Don's YL, Edith, at their new home there in South America. John and Don did some POTA work in Ecuador at different locations, and made other HF contacts from Ecuador, including with OVH members KE2N, N7QLK and W4RKU using

Cont'd on Page 3

Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 4293
Manassas, Virginia 20108-0728

OFFICERS

President:	Gil Thompson	KM4OZH	369-0431
Vice Pres:	Vacant		
Secretary:	John Heartney	KG4NXT	257-3566
Treasurer:	Jeff Porter	K9VEG	216-7734

DIRECTORS

Don (Butch) Blasdel	W4HJL	369-2877
Arthur Whittum	W1CRO	791-4330
Bob Zaepfel	K4HJF	282-2451
Theresa Heartney	KG4TVM	257-3566

WEEKLY FM REPEATER NET COORDINATOR

JOHN	KG4NXT	257-3566
Thurs - 8:00 PM Local Time		

TAILGATE (HAMFEST) 2024 - CHAIRMAN

Don	WA2SWX	597-3211
-----	--------	----------

FIELD DAY 2024 - CHAIRWOMAN

Cat	otohime.1978@gmail.com	KM4PBD	571-213-2179
-----	------------------------	--------	--------------

CLUB ROSTER / DATABASE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
--------	-------	----------

VE COORDINATOR

Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
------	--------	----------

CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

Open - volunteer needed!

ARES - EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Lane	KG4GIY	628-3868
See http://pwcares.org	email: kg4giy@arrl.net	

FINANCE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
Don	WA2SWX	597-3211

GENERATORS

Byron	AK4XR	222-2095
Al	KB4BHB	368-4794

WARRIOR BIKE RIDE - CHAIRMAN

Andy	andy@gamponia.com	KJ4MTP	785-4651
------	--	--------	----------

WEB COMMITTEE — W4OVH.NET + Twitter & Facebook

Kevin	W4RKU	540-445-5183
John	KG4NXT	257-3566
Ken	KN4DD	622-2638

Web Committee "help request" email: webmaster@w4ovh.net

EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4ovh@googlegroups.com

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
------	--------	----------

MANASSAS CHRISTMAS PARADE - OVH COORDINATOR

George	K4GVT	791-5956
--------	-------	----------

LEGAL

Bob	K4HJF	282-2451
-----	-------	----------

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Luther	WA3FMO	361-4885
--------	--------	----------

NEWSLETTER

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
------	------	----------

CHRISTMAS / YEAR END PARTY - CHAIRPERSON

Theresa.	KG4TVM	257-3566
----------	--------	----------

PROGRAMS

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
------	--------	----------

QUARTERMASTER

Open - volunteer needed!

THURSDAY NIGHT NET / REPEATER CONTROLLERS

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
Ken	KE2N	753-8587
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Al	KB4BHB	368-4794
James	KQ4CAX	628-5186
David	KG4GIY	361-3042
Cat	KM4PBD	571-213-2179

W4OVH — TRUSTEE

Gil	KM4OZH	369-0431
-----	--------	----------

W4PVA — TRUSTEE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
--------	-------	----------

SCHOLARSHIP 2022

Ken	KN4DD	622-2638
-----	-------	----------

SUNSHINE

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
---------	--------	----------

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Ken	KE2N	753-8587
Andy	KJ4MTP	786-4651
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Bob	K4HJF	335-1939
David	KG4GIY	628-3868
Gil	KM4OZH	369-0431

HISTORIAN

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
---------	--------	----------

All telephone numbers listed above are for Area Code 703 unless otherwise noted. This is the official monthly publication of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc., a §501(c)(3) organization, dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Amateur Radio. Copyright © 2024 by the Ole Virginia Hams which holds its regular monthly meetings at 7:30 p.m. every third Tuesday at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department Station, 7190 Yates Ford Road, Manassas, Virginia except during the COVID pandemic (in 2020-2021) during which the monthly meetings were held online. The Newsletter will have login details for monthly online meetings if applicable. Members, prospective members and other interested persons are invited to attend without obligation. Local information can also be obtained through the OVH's FM repeaters on 146.970-, 224.660-, 442.200+ and 443.500+ MHz. Up to date information about OVH activities and its meetings is also available during the OVH's nets on its FM Repeater each Thursday night at 8:00 p.m. or through the OVH's web site at <http://w4ovh.net>. Articles in this newsletter may be reprinted if credit is given to the OVH ARC and other source(s) noted. Proposed materials for publication, classified ads, notes about specific errors, complaints or the like are solicited. Forward such items to the Newsletter Editor: paul@w4zb.com. Approx. Circ.: 170. Last Rev: 20251015

Cont'd from page 1

the FT8 mode on the 10 meter band. Be sure to check out Theresa's Sunshine Corner for details on John and Theresa's Ecuador trip which included a side trip to Panama and the Panama Canal.

This past week Theresa and John began a clean out process for the OVH club trailer which has become severely overloaded. The several club members who have towed that trailer recently are well aware of the excessive weight on its tongue hitch end. The objective of the clean out is to sift through the many items in the trailer and determine which are obsolete or redundant so those items can be removed. This will be an ongoing project and an inventory is being compiled as the work progresses.

Other recent activities included Ron / K3FR and myself participating in the Fauquier Amateur Radio Association's sponsored Open Fox Hunt on October 12th. In that "Fox Hunt" the participants were engaged in trying to locate a hidden radio transmitter as quickly as possible. This activity is not to be confused with traditional Fox Hunts still very popular among horse owners in the rural parts of Fauquier County in which horse riders for sport assisted by packs of barking hounds track down and chase real foxes attempting to flee from them. Ron and I each used our own home built directional antennas for the radio "fox hunt." I had a great time as did Ron. Rain was forecast but did not materialize.

The Marine Corps Marathon will be on Sunday, October 27th this year, and a number of OVH member will be assisting with that to provide communications support.

Left on OVH's 2025 To-Do List: again OVH will be providing support for the Manassas Christmas Parade on December 6th. George / K4GVT is again in charge of coordinating that, and you should contact him at his email george@k4gvt.com if you are interested and able to help out. Also, OVH's annual Year End Holiday Party is now scheduled for December 14th. Preparations for each of these events are still underway.

The next regular OVH monthly meeting will be on Tuesday, October 21st at 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM ET at the Buckhall VFD Hall, 7190 Yates Ford Road, Manassas. There will be a presentation about DMR - Digital Mobile Radio - by Kenneth Fowler, N4VKF.

A reminder to check in to the OVH's Thursday night VHF/UHF FM repeater net at 8 PM - details are on the OVH's web site: <https://w4ovh.net> This is a great way to stay in touch.

Questions, comments, etc. should be directed to me at my e-mail: km4ozh@gmail.com

That is all for now,

73 Gil KM4OZH

Some Possibly Interesting or Useful Information

A few years ago the ARRL started to make all of its periodicals (QST, QEX, NCJ, etc.) available online to each of its active members, and began encouraging its members to use just the online versions instead of continuing to receive printed copies. The online versions save the costs of paper copy printing and mailing, but when all periodicals were put online, the ARRL also could no longer collect separate subscription charges for QEX and NCJ. Many or most of OVH's members are also ARRL members so the current

Cont'd on page 4

status of this situation should be of interest to most readers of this Newsletter.

Your editor recently went online again to see how this is working out, but did not check out the iPad, Android table or Kindle apps which the ARRL has also made available. The URL for web browser access is <https://www.arrl.org/arrl-magazines> and to use that, you must first input your Login Username and Password as an ARRL member.

The four current online periodicals now available online are: 1. QST for Nov. 2025 (132 pages); 2. QEX, the ARRL's technical journal, for Sept/Oct 2025 (32 pages); 3. NCJ, the ARRL's radio contesting journal for Oct/Nov 2025 (32 pages) and 4. On the Air, ARRL's periodical oriented to relatively new hams, for Nov. 2025. (36 pages). Each can easily be downloaded as a full color PDF file or read online.

Worth checking out. It's a lot easier to store these periodicals as PDF files for future reference on a hard drive or USB thumb drive than accumulate stacks of paper copies.



Sunshine Corner

Happy Birthday wishes to all of the following OVH club members with birthdays in October: Ray / KM4EKR, Rob / KC4VDN, Phil / AI5TD, Chris / KN4IJF, Bruce / WD4PAC, Eric / KO4MBI and David / KY4MM.

Special thanks to Ken KN4DD for working as our club President since 2022. Ken has stepped down due to some serious medical issues. Please send him your thoughts and prayers for his full recovery.

Congratulations to George K4GVT on finally retiring for good!!! Let's see what George will get into with all his spare time!

The OVH Club Trailer will be in the Manassas Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 6, 2025. We are looking for someone to pull the trailer thru the parade and also people to help decorate the trailer. Please reach out to me if you are interested or have questions, kg4tvm@hotmail.com We always have a great time at the parade. George / K4GVT is looking for volunteers to provide radio support during the parade. His email is George@K4GVT.com Plan to charge up your handheld radio and come out and experience this event!

In September John / KG4NXT and I traveled to Ecuador to visit with OVH member, Don / WA2SWX and his YL Edith. John and I had the trip of a lifetime and are very appreciative of our host and hostess for opening up their home to us and taking us on tours around Ecuador. Don now has his own Ecuador call sign, HC4DA; it took him quite awhile to get thru the Ecuadorian licensing process, but he now has his radio shack up and running.

During our visit we traveled to Puerto Lopez for a few days and were able to stay in a Lodge located in the Machalilla National Park, which is listed on as a POTA "Park." Machalilla National Park had never been activated - until Don and John checked into the Lodge there with all of their necessary radio equipment and began POTA activations!

Because US call signs are not authorized for use in Ecuador, Don's HC4DA call sign was



Cont'd from page 4

used. After setting up the radio equipment on the second floor balcony at the Lodge and throwing a wire antenna over a nearby palm tree, Don and John were in business! They were able to do three activations from Machalilla National Park and at one point had one heck of a pile up of stations calling them. It was a great trip all the way around!

A few pictures from our trip and a side trip to Panama to see the Panama Canal follow:



To the left, Don and John in Don's home QTH radio shack in Ecuador. To the right, John and Don on the Lodge balcony at the Machalilla National Park working POTA activation stations



To the left, palm tree supports for a wire HF antenna from the Lodge balcony. To the right, a morning view, including of the Pacific Ocean, in Ecuador.



Remember that the OVH Thursday night VHF and UHF FM net is at 8:00 pm each Thursday evening. It is a great way to keep up with current events and hear what other active OVH members are up to with their radios! Details are on the W4OVH.NET web site.



To the left, on side trip to Panama, a location overlooking Panama Canal ship traffic.

Please send me your news, good, not so good and ham related info!

73 Theresa / KG4TVM kg4tvm@hotmail.com Tel: 703-257-3566

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting held on September 16, 2025:

OVH Vice President, Gil / KM4OZH, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm on September 16, 2025 in the training room at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department Station. After the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and call signs.

Mark / WA4KFZ gave an excellent and unusual presentation about his visit in June, 2025 to the largest annual European Hamfest which is held in Friedrichshafen, Germany. Links to PDFs of Mark's slides will be made available on the OVH web site.

The minutes of the August 16, 2025 OVH regular meeting were approved.

Jeff / K9VEG gave the treasurer's and it was approved.

Membership report and actions via Luther / WA3FMO: one new read-in to be voted on at the next OVH meeting: Philipp Stuppert / KJ6GZZ (Technician license); two new members were voted-in at the meeting: Thomas Dean / KR4EJP and Kate Duvall / KR4FRQ.

ARES: No report.

Repeaters; All repeaters and web interfaces are working satisfactorily.

Training report by Mark / WA4KFZ: all OVH VECs need to become familiar with using the Exam Tools software for the new live computer based VE session to be held.

Tail Gate Report: John / KG4NXT will not chair this again in 2026. Theresa / KG4TVM is actively exploring Colgan as a hamfest site with indoor and outdoor spaces with a possible June 21, 2026 date.

Field Day and Tailgate – still far off, but both need a chair for 2026.

W4OVH.com Web site: web site is functioning satisfactorily.

Theresa / KG4TVM gave the Sunshine report via email while she was in Ecuador.

Old Business: None. New Business: none.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS:

There are few nearby Hamfests in the Fall. The Winterfest 2026 is scheduled for 3/15/2026 in Vienna, Virginia - more later. Check the ARRL Hamfest Calendar for possible more distant ones.

OVH RELATED EVENTS

December 6, 2025 - Saturday morning: OVH participation in and communication support for the 78th annual Manassas Christmas Parade.

December 13, 2025 - Sunday evening: OVH annual Year End Holiday Party. Put this family event on your "hold the date" list. More details shortly.

HAM RADIO OPERATING / CONTEST EVENTS

The Fall and early Winter is prime time for radio contesting events on the HF amateur radio bands. See, pages 65 - 83 of the November 2025 issues of QST for a Special Section about Contest Season 2025/2026. Upcoming in November are the ARRL Sweepstakes Contests on CW and Phone, and the CQ Worldwide DX Contest on CW. In December, the ARRL's 160 Meter Contest, the ARRL's 10 Meter Contest and the ARRL's Rookie's CW Contest will all take place. In January, 2026, the CW Worldwide 160 Meter CW Contest will take place along with many other radio operating contests.

See also, <https://www.arrl.org/contests> for the ARRL maintained Contesting web page, A lot is always going on in November, December and January which are always big HF contesting months. See, NG3K.com and <https://contestcalendar.com> by WA7BNM for more info!

PUBLIC EVENTS / PUBLIC SERVICE / ARES EVENTS

Check the online Calendar on the OVH's web site at W4OVH.NET for information about upcoming OVH related events. Also, check the online Calendar maintained by David / KG4GIY at <http://pwcared.org> for the latest PWC ARES updates. Complete direct contact information for David / KG4GIY also appears on page 2 of this Newsletter.

Some More Possibly Interesting or Useful Information

Mark / WA4KFZ's presentation in September about the June 2025 Friedrichshafen Hamfest he had attended, had me paying special attention to the post-event reviews of that Hamfest in the two main German ham magazines. One of the interesting items reported in both described the 13 year old Romanian ham prodigy (YO8YNS) who had just set a new high speed Morse code copying world record on a live stage before an audience at the Hamfest by copying Morse code from the RufzXP software, beating his own prior world record. The current version of that free software [<https://www.rufzxp.net>] runs on everything from Windows 11 back to before Windows XP.

That web site has links to audio streams of the word PARIS being sent over and over in Morse code at speeds from 10 wpm to more than 200 wpm and may be worth listening to if you have interest in using Morse code. When I first concentrated on learning Morse code to get my ham license at age 14, the world's high speed CW champion then could decode in his head and type the decoded text to a typewriter at up to 70 wpm with "solid" copy. The championship tests with RufzXP do not require "solid copy" but do require accurate copying of ham call signs at very high speeds, now above 200 wpm! To me, that seems utterly impossible! For me at least, above about 50 to 60 wpm, CW audio word sounds run together and begin to sound like a succession of buzzes from which there would seem to be no possibility of decoding the sub-sounds within each buzz due to the biological limits of human ears in detecting sound variations.

Geglückter Rekordversuch

13-Jähriger erreicht Bestmarke in Hochgeschwindigkeits-Telegrafie



1160 Zeichen pro Minute: Der 13-jährige Rumäne Alexandru Ianis Scutaru, YO8YNS, hat am Samstagvormittag auf der HAM RADIO-Aktionsbühne die Zuschauer ins Staunen versetzt. Als mehrfacher Weltmeister in der Hochgeschwindigkeits-Telegrafie unternahm er live einen Rekordversuch in RufzXP. Trotz seines jungen Alters ist Ianis Alexandru Scutaru schon ein alter Hase in der High-Speed-Telegrafie: Bereits bei der Schnelltelegrafie-Weltmeisterschaft in Tunesien im vergangenen Jahr hatte YO8YNS mit einer Punktzahl von 311 192 Punkten und einer Höchstgeschwindigkeit von 1126 Zeichen pro Minute einen neuen Weltrekord aufgestellt, den er nun weiter verbessern konnte. source: 08/2025 CQ-DL